

Third Sunday in Advent/ Tretja Adventna Nedelja

December 17, 2023

# Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



## Welcome to Holy Cross Parish

750 Tahmore Drive,  
Fairfield, CT 06825-2519

*We extend a warm welcome to all newcomers. May you find our parish a place where your faith will be nourished.*

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday - Thursday:** 9:00 am

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 4:30 pm

**Sunday Masses:** 10:00 am

**Holy Day Masses:** As announced

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Alfred F. Pečarič, S.T.L., *Pastor*

Mr. John Ertlmaier, CPA / *Bookkeeper*

Mr. William Sekelsky, *Finance Board Chairman*

Robert Kokorda., *President of Parish Advisory Board*

Mrs. Jackie Azarian, *Coordinatrix* – 203. 218.5525;

Mrs. Lory Moomjian, *Coordinatrix* – 203. 257. 1262

**Organists:** Anthony Sagnella, Esq. – *Sundays*

Mrs. Lori Golias – *Saturdays*

**Prayer Request Line:** Ann Marie Schiessl / 203.255.0866

**Rectory:** 203.372.4595

**Parish Office:** 203.372.4595 **Fax:** 203.372.4668

**E-mail:** holy\_cross\_church@sbcglobal.net

**Parish Website:** [www.holycrosschurchfairfield.com](http://www.holycrosschurchfairfield.com)

### SACRAMENTS

**Baptism:** Preparation Class is by appointment only.  
Arrangement for baptism will be made during the class.

**Confession:** Saturday, 3:45-4:15 pm and by appointment

### COUNCIL & SOCIETIES

**Parish Advisory Board:** Quarterly – 7:00 pm

**Finance Board:** Quarterly – 7:00 pm

## MASS INTENTIONS

## MAŠNI NAMENI

Sat. Dec. 16 4:30 pm + Marianne Bell - Edward

Sun. Dec. 17 10:00 am + Elizabeth Owen – Carolyn, Ed and Bill

Mon. Dec. 18 9:00 am + Ole J. Reyen - Edward

Tues. Dec. 19 9:00 am Intention of Jennifer Quiles – Leila Hudson

Wed. Dec. 20 9:00 am + Edward and Adeline Reyen - Edward

Thur. Dec. 21 9:00 am + Janes Hribšek

Sat. Dec. 23 4:30 pm + William and Mary Sekelsky – The Sekelsky Family

Sun. Dec. 24 10:00 am + Mirna Morawski – The Morawski Family

## MASS READERS

Sat. Dec. 16 4:30 pm Bob Kokorda

Sun. Dec. 17 10:00 am Liz Selimović

Sat. Dec. 23 4:30 pm

Sun. Dec. 24 10:00 am

Bill Sekelsky

Evelyn Chomortany

**ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS:** will be heard this Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, or until needed. As we prepare for the holy Nativity of Our blessed LORD, Jesus Christ, make sure to prepare yourself spiritually by a Sacrament Confession as a purification to receive the Holy Child worthily in your heart.

**CHRISTMAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST/ BAKE SALE/RAFFLE:** please join us in our Parish Hall this morning for our annual Christmas **ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST** featuring Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Pastries, Sweets, Coffee, Tea, and juice, ALL for ONLY \$5.00.

Simultaneously, we are hosting a **Christmas Bake Sale** in the Vestibule of the Church, in conjunction with our **Christmas Raffle**. Please help us make this **Breakfast, Bake Sale** and **Raffle** a success. Come to Mass, enjoy Breakfast, and walk out with delicious Christmas treats.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH LXI: 1 – 2, 10 - 11

*“The spirit of the LORD G\_D is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our G\_D. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my G\_D is the joy of my soul; for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice. Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels; as the Earth brings forth its plants and a garden makes its growth spring up, so, will the LORD G\_D make Justice and Praise spring up before all the Nations.”*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM LUKE I: 46 – 48, 49 – 50, 53 - 54

R: “My soul rejoices in my G\_D.”

*“My being proclaims the greatness of the LORD, my spirit finds joy in G\_D my Saviour,  
For, He has looked upon His handmaid in her lowliness: all ages to come shall call me blessed. R.  
G\_D Who is Mighty has done great things for me HOLY is His Name;  
His mercy is from age to age on those who fear Him. R.  
The hungry He has given every good thing, while the rich He has sent empty away.  
He has upheld Israel His servant, ever mindful of His mercy. R.”*

A READING FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS V: 16 – 24

*“Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is G\_D’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Spirit. Do not despise Prophecies. Test everything: retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of Evil. May the G\_D of Peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul and body, irreproachable at the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore He will do it.”*

FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN I: 6 – 8; 19-28

*“There was a man named John sent by G\_D, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through him all men might believe-but only to testify to the Light, for he himself was not the Light. The testimony John gave when the Jews sent Priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask ‘Who are you?’ was the absolute statement, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ They questioned him further, ‘Who then, Elijah? I am not Elijah,’ he answered. ‘Are you the Prophet? No’ he replied. Finally, they said to him: ‘tell us who you are, so that we can give some answer to those who sent us. What do you have to say for yourself?’ He said, quoting the Prophet Isaiah, ‘I am-a voice in the desert, crying out: make straight the way of the Lord!’ Those whom the Pharisees had sent proceeded to question him further: ‘If you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?’ John answered them: ‘I baptized with water. There is one among you whom you do not recognize-the One who is to come after me-the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to unfasten.’ This happened in Bethany, across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.”*

## TIMES OF CHRISTMAS MASSES:

**Sunday, Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm Vigil Mass**  
**Monday, Christmas Midnight: 00:00 Midnight**  
**Monday, Christmas Morning: 10:00 am**

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## NEW YEAR’S DAY: JANUARY 1, 2024

**JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>** marks the Solemnity of Our Lady, Mary, the *Holy Theotokos-the GOD Bearer*. As it falls on Monday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated, so although a Holy Day, it is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation.

Nonetheless, you are invited to attend the 9:00 am Mass on New Year’s Day to consecrate the new year of 2024 to Our Lord, invoking His blessing, for protection and world peace through the Intercession of HIS Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary.

**THE INFIRM:** We pray for the healing & restoration of good health to all our infirm family members, friends, and Parishioners in particular:



Robert Balling, Anna Maria Barchetti, Alan Bedwell, Julianne Burany, Mary Lou Cahill, Martha Catel, Don DeMattia, Eileen Donohue, Melissa Doran, Dorothy Fejes, Lorraine Ferrone, Ian Gallagher, Joan Gerdson, Patricia Goyette, Linda Grzegowski, Debbie Hiergersol, Nancy Hocurscak, Vinnie Huroschak, Peter John, Mary Ann Koprivec, Louise Kranyik, Johnny Kuczo, Patricia Land, Pat Lenahan, Madalene Lennon, Eleanor Liskar, Gabriel Loeser, Michael Long, Lillian Makar, Raul Matamoros, Bonaventura Mauro, Patty Merola, Jackie & Tony Mitchell, Marc Pagnozzi, Paul Paris, Gregory Parsley, Amy Peloquin, Mary Ellen Peterson, Pete Peterson, Elizabeth Petrushonis, Lucille Piccirillo, Joseph Piliero, Frank Prokaly, George & Richard Prackup, Edward & Diane Raschke, Joel Rivera, Annette & Bernie Senderak, Michael Sheets, Katherine Vallone, KJ Waller, George Wilson, Melissa Yearington,

We commend to our prayers the souls of all the recently Deceased. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the Mercy of G\_D rest in Peace. Amen.

Please pray for World Peace, for an end to all unrest throughout the world-especially the Middle East, and for the protection of all our soldiers, troops, and Servicemen, may Almighty G\_D bless & protect them, from all evil, harm, & injury, and, return them safely home. Amen.

**FEAST DAYS IN DECEMBER:**

Sunday, December 17, 2023

**Third Sunday in Advent**

Thursday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor

Saturday, December 23

St. John of Kanty, Priest

**In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Sunday, December 24

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

*December 09/ 10, 2023*

*Regular Collection:* \$ 1,326.00

*Monthly Collection:* \$ 647.00

*Miscellaneous:* \$ 543.00

**THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT  
ADVENT III**



On this Third Sunday in Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, the Church encourages us to rejoice with an inner sense of gladness in the midst of this busy season as we anticipate the coming of the Messiah-the Light from Heaven who illuminates our path to the glory of the Father, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, first, at His coming by His birth as man-which we celebrate on the Holy Day of Christmas-and secondly, at His coming at the end of the ages when He will return in Glory to judge the living and the Dead.

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah, reminds us of the reason for this great joy: G\_D commands that comfort be given to HIS people by healing the brokenhearted, liberating captives, and, by proclaiming a year of favor. These favors result in rejoicing heartily in the LORD as HE will annihilate injustice from the Earth, and make it blossom forth an idyllic state of peace, holiness and love.

Paul of Tarsus in his Epistle to the Thessalonians exhorts us all to rejoice always and never cease praying so that: *"the G\_D of Peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul, and body, irreproachable at the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore, HE will do it."*

Throughout this holy season of Advent, continual reference is made also to Our Lord's second coming, which is emphasized by the additional signs of gladness.

*Gaudete* Sunday is further marked by a new "invitatory"-the invitation to prayer- no longer inviting the Faithful to merely adore *"The LORD Who is to come,"* but calling up them to worship and hail Him with joy: *"The LORD Who is now nigh & close at hand."* Therefore, in this spirit of joy at the coming of the LORD, the color of the Liturgical vestments is changed from purple or violet to rose, and therefore joy is enunciated by the Church.

This Holy Season of Advent affords us the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with G\_D, to turn away from sin, prepare for the birth of HIS Son on the day we call *Christmas*. As St. John the Baptist proffered: *"There is One among you whom you do not recognize-the One who is to come after me-the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to unfasten."*

Remember to keep Christ in Christmas, for without Him, there is no Christmas.